

A TEXTBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY with an Introduction to the History of Neurology, Seventh Edition—Israel S. Wechsler, M.D., Clinical Professor of Neurology, Columbia University, New York. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. \$9.50.

It is now 25 years since this textbook of clinical neurology first appeared; through seven editions the author has kept the book thoroughly abreast of the times. In the present edition obsolete matter has been eliminated and new material presented where indicated with little regard for the effort involved, effecting a definite improvement in what has always been a very good text.

The initial hundred pages devoted to neurological examination are very worth while. Thereafter, there is a division into three main sections, devoted to the spinal cord, the peripheral nerves, and the brain. Although this topographical separation makes for a certain amount of duplication, it is a particularly satisfactory one for the student. The final short chapter on the neuroses brings up the question as to whether such material should be included in a neurological text. Certainly it is never adequate from the standpoint of the psychiatrist, and in general seems inappropriate in a volume devoted otherwise exclusively to organic disease.

This is a book which can be recommended both to the student of medicine and to the practitioner as an adequate source of instruction and reference.

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THE HEALTH OF THE MIND—J. R. Rees, M.D., Director, World Federation for Mental Health. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, 1951. \$2.75.

This little volume is obviously directed to the ordinary layman with the avowed purpose of giving him some general ideas about mental hygiene. After a brief introduction about the historical development of psychiatry, simple definitions of psychoses, psychoneuroses, and character disorders are presented along with brief descriptions of Freudian, Adlerian and Jungian psychology. A short outline of "body mechanisms" with particular emphasis on the role of the central nervous system and of the glands of internal secretion is designed to give the reader some slight knowledge of the individual's "physical machine." The role of emotions, instincts, and "sentiments" in this total functioning of the personality is correlated with structure in such a manner that the general concept of the close interaction of mind and body is made quite clear without the use of highly technical language.

Psychological mechanisms, such as projection, transference, identification, compensation, repression and conversion are illustrated by examples of behavior and attitude in everyday life with minimal emphasis on the pathological, and in this way the author avoids arousing an excess of anxiety in his readers. The chapter on the causes and cure of mental breakdown is also presented in a simple, straightforward manner. Various methods of therapy, both somatic and psychological, are mentioned with no pretense that there is any panacea for the difficulties arising from emotional conflicts. Problems that may arise during early life, childhood, adolescence, maturity and old age are all discussed in a sensitive fashion, and nowhere, not even in the chapter on sex education, is there a tendency to lapse into technical polysyllabic psychiatric jargon. The author states, "There can be nothing in our mental life that we should fear to look at. To ignore those things which need alteration or reevaluation is a foolish and short-sighted method. Self-knowledge is essential if we would have progress for ourselves and for society."

This book may be enthusiastically recommended by the physician to his patients, especially to those who ask for some simple exposition of psychological problems and mental hygiene.

SURGERY OF PERIPHERAL NERVES—Emil Seletz, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Southern California School of Medicine; Art Editor, Tom Jones, Professor of Medical and Dental Illustrations and Head of Department, University of Illinois. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1951. 185 pages. \$10.75.

Dr. Seletz' book represents the result of his broad and detailed experience with 2,037 peripheral nerve injuries at the Wakeman Hospital Center during World War II. The book is divided into 19 chapters, the first of which is devoted to the principles and technique of nerve surgery. This subject is developed briefly; the chapter is in no sense a comprehensive treatise and its brevity implies familiarity with peripheral nerve surgery on the part of the reader. The succeeding chapters, 18 in all, consider the anatomy, clinical diagnosis of lesions and surgical treatment thereof for each major peripheral nerve. The text includes a clear, elementary discussion of the surgical anatomy and clinical picture of paralysis of each nerve. Numerous large photographs of the paralyzed limbs of patients illustrating the results of nerve injuries are included, and the anatomy of each nerve is depicted in generous sized and beautiful drawings which will be found helpful in planning the surgical approach to a given nerve. The techniques of nerve repair which are presented are the result of the author's personal experience. Emphasis is placed upon nerve exposure through fascial planes and procuring added length for neurorrhaphy with special reference to the median nerve.

Dr. Seletz' discussion and illustrations of his favorite surgical incisions will be welcome. Such descriptions of techniques successful in his large series, together with the numerous and clear pictures, constitute this book's greatest contribution to the field of nerve surgery.

This book concerns itself exclusively with nerve injuries. No consideration of other nerve lesions is included. Problems encountered in civilian life such as delayed nerve palsies are not discussed. The management of partial nerve lesions, the rate of recovery of injured nerves, the prognostic signs in following return of nerve function, the problem of reoperations and the optimum time therefor, are subjects which are omitted. Likewise omitted is a consideration of the role of neurolysis in the treatment of nerve injuries. The very brief discussion of the treatment of causalgia does not permit more than a statement of the technique which has been successful in the author's hands.

The book does not pretend to be a text, for indeed references are few and no bibliography is included.

It is beautifully produced on high-grade paper, it is readable, the illustrations are conveniently labeled, and the charts of nerve function will act as a ready review. The book deserves scrutiny by all who plan definitive surgical treatment of nerve injuries and the principles will frequently apply to the treatment of non-traumatic lesions.

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PENICILLIN DECADE, 1941-1951—Sensitizations and Toxicities—Lawrence Weld Smith, M.D., Medical Director, Commercial Solvents Corporation; and Ann Dolan Walker, R.N., former Editor, "Trained Nurse and Hospital Review." Arundel Press, Inc., Washington, D. C., 1951. 122 pages. \$2.50.

Between the covers of this little book with the intriguing title of "Penicillin Decade," one finds a catalogue of all the untoward effects of this antibiotic reported in the past ten years. There are references to no less than 342 titles. Such a collection seems to present an alarming picture; one must remember that most of these penicillin reactions are not common. Aside from being a valuable work of reference, however, this compendium may remind the doctor that after all it is better to have a clear indication for the use of antibiotics than to use them indiscriminately.